HUMAN SECURITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

COMPARATIVE RESEARCH IN FOUR ASIAN COUNTRIES

CONFERENCE ON NEW FRONTIERS OF SOCIAL POLICY: DEVELOPMENT IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD
ARUSHA, TANZANIA, DECEMBER 14, 2005

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Objectives of the Study

Explore the practical value of a HS-oriented approach to Social Development policy and operations

1. Develop appropriate indicators to measure human security in various countries

2. Collect data relating those indicators in specific country and community settings, with emphasis on vulnerable people and response to shocks.

3. Provide empirical analysis of how a human security approach can improve policy for advancing social development
Definition of Social Development

A process of positive and sustainable change that involves the transforming institutions, empowering the poor and marginalized, and achieving more cohesive societies with inclusive and accountable institutions.
Human security in its broadest sense embraces far more than the absence of violent conflict. It embraces human rights and good governance, access to education and health care and ensuring that each individual has opportunities and choices to fulfill his or her own potential.

Kofi Annan
Narrow View of Human Security

The protection of individuals and communities from war and other forms of violence.

Human Security Centre,
University of British Columbia.
Definition of Human Security

Human security is a condition in which people are protected and empowered to cope with severe and sudden threats to their survival, livelihood and dignity.
Research Methodology

- Selection of countries, communities, and shocks
- Development of HS Indicators
- Literature Survey on status of HS and SD in the selected 4 countries
- Field Survey to collect local level data targeting vulnerable groups (including statistical data collection, key person interviews, RRA and SWOT workshops in the community)
Countries Investigated

- Bangladesh
- Thailand
- Cambodia
- Sri Lanka
## Overview of Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population (millions)</th>
<th>GDP per capita (constant US$)</th>
<th>HDI Ranking (UNDP 2005)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>921</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>2,276</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Survival, Livelihood, Dignity

**Survival Indicators**
- Access to food
- Access to water
- Vulnerability to violent conflict
- Access to health services

**Livelihood Indicators**
- Access to education
- Access to income
- Vulnerability to poverty
- Access to electricity

**Dignity Indicators**
- Voice and accountability
- Vulnerability to corruption
- Access to justice
- Gender integration.
## Survival Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of Human Security Interests</th>
<th>Challenges to HS</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Data source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Survival (physical security)</td>
<td>Access to food, shelter, basic health services, vulnerability to conflict, violent crime, environment hazards, natural disasters</td>
<td>1 Access to Food</td>
<td>Population undernourished (% of total population) FAO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 Access to Water</td>
<td>Access to safe water (% of total population) WB World Development Indicators (WDI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 Conflict Vulnerability</td>
<td>University of Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4 Access to health services</td>
<td>Immunization, measles (% of children ages 12-23) WB WDI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Livelihood Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of Human Security Interests</th>
<th>Challenges to HS</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Data source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Livelihood (economic security)</td>
<td>Access to education and training, employment opportunities, access to credit, access to resources; vulnerability to poverty</td>
<td>5 Access to education</td>
<td>Youth Literacy Rate (15-24 years old)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6 Access to income</td>
<td>GNI per capita (PPP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7 Vulnerability to poverty</td>
<td>Population below national poverty line (% of total population)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8 Access to electricity</td>
<td>Access to electricity (% of total population)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Dignity Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of Human Security Interests</th>
<th>Challenges to HS Indicator</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Data source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dignity (political security)</td>
<td>Accountable governance, rule of law, access to information, opportunities for democratic participation</td>
<td>9 Participati <em>on</em></td>
<td>Voice and accountability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10 Corruption Vulnerability</td>
<td>Control of corruption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11 Access to justice</td>
<td>Rule of law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12 Gender integration</td>
<td>Gender empowerment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Human Security Profiles

Bangladesh

Sri Lanka

Cambodia

Thailand
Sri Lanka Human Security Profile
Thailand Human Security Profile
There is a gap between national and local level HS.

Some livelihood and dignity indicators are significantly low at community level.
Human Security and Social Development in Thailand

- Remarkable national/international efforts in promoting HS (Establishment of Ministry of HS and SD), chairing the International Human Security Network, hosting the conference on disability

- Current focus of government is on disability, HIV/AIDS, landmines and human trafficking, less on ethnic minorities and other issues.
Target Communities

- Examined case of “Tsunami” as a shock and its impact on “Sea Gypsy Communities”
- Visited 2 Provincial offices, 4 district offices, 7 villages in Phuket and Phang-nga
- Villagers are considered as “vulnerable” (undocumented, unregistered citizens, no land title, low access to assets/credit/justice)
- Examples of “high aid availability village” and “low aid availability village”
Major Findings (1) Impact of Tsunami on HS and SD

- Raised public/international awareness to socially disadvantaged groups in the South
- Increased opportunity for education and employment
- Protection: Houses, shelters, medical care, fishing equipments provided to ensure basic physical/economic well-beings
- Empowerment: “access to justice” is improved due to increased presence of NGOs and donors --- house registration, land title issues, bottom-up movement “evacuation plan project” initiated by villagers themselves
- Unequal aid distribution and questions on aid effectiveness persists. Significant gap exists across villages especially in “access to income”
- Conflict and social division brought by dispute over aids and inadequate leadership
### Findings (2) Villagers’ Concerns and Coping Strategies

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<th>4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic needs</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural disasters</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets or credit</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>L</td>
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</table>
Policy Implications

- More community-based research needed to assess the areas of policy inputs, Promotion of decentralization

- For “vulnerable populations”, substantial and continuous support is necessary in “dignity” part of HS

- Donor coordination and harmonization is crucial in
  1. raising aid effectiveness
  2. promoting capacity building at the community level
  3. enhancing institutional accountability
Preliminary Conclusions

- Severe conditions and sudden shocks undermine the security of vulnerable people and impede social development.

- Human security is largely a local phenomenon. National data and indicators provide only limited guidance.

- Community level research can identify specific causes of insecurity and suggest appropriate responses.

- Efforts to protect and empower people to cope with threats to their security should be made operational as an integral aspect of social development.